

NUCLEAR POWER & CLIMATE CHANGE

WASTED EFFORT

FALLACY

Nuclear power does not emit greenhouse gases.

TRUTH

During the different stages of the nuclear process large amounts of energy are needed. Recent studies estimate that nuclear power production causes the emission of just 3 times fewer greenhouse gases than modern natural gas power plants. Considering that world wide electrical energy production accounts for only 9% of CO₂, the continued use of nuclear power becomes a waste of effort in the battle to reduce greenhouse emissions.¹

FALLACY

There is an ample supply of fuel for nuclear reactor energy production.

TRUTH

In order to replace fossil fuel burning plants, the US alone, would need 1000 new reactors.²

If we were to replace fossil fuel burning plants with nuclear power plants, there would only be enough economically viable uranium to fuel these nuclear power plants for 3 to 4 years.³

FALLACY

Nuclear power is cheap.

TRUTH

The costs of nuclear power are rising without even including the subsidies this industry has received over the last 50 years, much less the hidden costs to environment and health. Wall Street remains unwilling to accept nuclear power due to its expense and risk.⁴

FALLACY

There are no viable alternative energy sources.

TRUTH

There are many alternative energy source, with technology that is viable today. Many of these technologies have 0 greenhouse emissions. Additionally, the cost of these technologies continues to decrease. In the past 10 years wind turbine cost per kWh fell by 50%. Photovoltaic cells fell by 30%.⁵

FALLACY

There are no other problems associated with nuclear power.

TRUTH

At what point will low level radiation become a bigger problem than CO₂ emissions? At what point will the storage of nuclear waste become the bigger problem? At what point will we get it through our heads that nuclear power plants are primary terrorist targets before we loose our heads?⁶

Notes

1. Nuclear Monitor, Nuclear Power: No solution to climate change, A Publication of World Information Service on Energy (WISE) and the Nuclear Information & Resource Service (NIRS) #621 & 622 February , 2005. p. 13. This issue of Nuclear Monitor has extensive references For further information see <http://www.nirs.org> click on News and Info and scroll down for the Issue cited above.
2. p. 4.
3. p. 11.
4. p. 12.
5. p. 14.
6. Science for Democratic Action, The Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, *Insurmountable Risks Can Nuclear Power Solve the Global Warming Problem?* Brice Smith, Volume 14, Number 2 August 2006. For further information <http://www.ieer.org>.

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